

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

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R 241105 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7149

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: BALUCHISTAN GOVERNMENTAL SITUATION FOCUS
OF ATTENTION

REF: ISLAMABAD 3201

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF) PROF. GHAFOR AHMED J- I MNA FROM KARACHI APRIL 23 TOLD NEWSMEN ON ARRIVAL IN PESHAWAR FOR UDF MEETING THAT CONSTITUTIONALITY OF PRESENT BUGTI ADMINISTRATION IN BALUCHISTAN, LEGAL SANCTION OF WHICH APPARENTLY EXPIRED APRIL 16 (PARA 2, REFTEL), TO BE CHALLENGED IN SIND- BALUCHISTAN HIGH COURT SHORTLY. SAME DAY, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT BHUTTO, RAFI RAZA, FLEW INTO QUETTA TO MEET WITH GOVERNOR BUGTI. THESE DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOW WEEK'S TOUR OF BALUCHISTAN BY NAP/ JUI LEADERS DURING WHICH EX- CHIEF MINISTER MENGAL CALLED FOR NON- COOPERATION WITH BUGTI GOVERNMENT IF NAP/ JUI PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT NOT RESTORED.

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2. COMMENT: FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION, PRESSURE FROM BHUTTO' S OPPOSITION TO RESOLVE ISSUE OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS IN NWFP AND BALUCHISTAN HAS BEEN MOUNTING. WITH UDF MEETING SCHEDULED FOR QUETTA APRIL 27 TO BE FOLLOWED BY NAP CENTRAL WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING ALSO IN QUETTA, IT POSSIBLE THAT BHUTTO STEPPING UP EFFORTS TO PUT TOGETHER PACKAGE IN BUCHISTAN IN ORDER TO QUIET OPPOSITION CLAMOR WHICH DETRACTS FROM LUSTRE OF RECENT CONSTITUTIONAL COMPROMISE. IT IS QUESTIONABLE IF SUCH EFFORTS COULD BEAR FRUIT BAFOR APRIL 27 UDF CONCLAVE, BUT FLYING VISIT OF PRESIDENT' S SPECIAL ASSISTANT SUGGESTS THAT PRESIDENT BHUTTO' S PATIENCE WITH BUGTI' S EFFORTS TO FORM GOVERNMENT MAY BE EXHAUSTED AND MOVEMENT OF SOME KIND, POSSIBLY RE-PLACEMENT OF BUGTI, LIKELY IN NEAR FUTURE.
TIGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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